

Airbus unveils plans for zero-emission planes

24th September, 2020



The airline manufacturer Airbus has unveiled ambitious plans for the world's first zero-emission aircraft. The aerospace giant predicts its hydrogen-powered commercial airplanes could be in service by 2035. The concept revealed by company engineers shows a shift away from battery power. Many in the industry believe batteries are the way forward for carbon-zero airplanes. However, Airbus says batteries could prove impractical for large airliners and have opted for hydrogen propulsion. A company spokesperson said the transition to hydrogen would require "decisive action from the entire aviation ecosystem". This means redesigned airports and significantly different refuelling infrastructure.

Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury said the company has three possible designs, one of which will be adopted as a business enterprise. He said the three "ZEROe" designs represented "a historic moment for the commercial aviation sector as a whole". Mr Faury said: "We intend to play a leading role in the most important transition this industry has ever seen." He added that the use of hydrogen as a fuel had "the potential to significantly reduce aviation's climate impact". Faury was upbeat about the future, saying: "With the support from government and industrial partners, we can rise up to this challenge to scale up renewable energy and hydrogen for the sustainable future of the aviation industry."

Sources: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) / [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) / [flightglobal.com](https://www.flightglobal.com)

Writing

Airplanes that produce emissions should be banned after 2035. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

airline / manufacturer / zero emission / commercial / batteries / hydrogen / aviation / company / enterprise / historic / transition / industry / climate / partners / future

True / False

- a) The airline maker Airbus has veiled plans for a zero-emission aircraft. T / F
- b) Airbus said it hopes all planes worldwide will be zero-emission by 2035. T / F
- c) Many in the aviation industry think airplanes should run on batteries. T / F
- d) Hydrogen-fuelled planes would require redesigned airports. T / F
- e) Airbus will choose one of four designs for its new aircraft. T / F
- f) Airbus said the designs signified a historic moment in aviation history. T / F
- g) The Airbus CEO was somewhat downbeat about the future. T / F
- h) The CEO said Airbus could meet the future sustainability challenge. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. manufacturer | a. settled on |
| 2. predicts | b. idea |
| 3. concept | c. expand |
| 4. impractical | d. firm |
| 5. decisive | e. field |
| 6. adopted | f. maker |
| 7. sector | g. change |
| 8. transition | h. optimistic |
| 9. upbeat | i. anticipates |
| 10. scale up | j. unfeasible |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What would life as Airbus' CEO be like?
- c) What historic moments have there been in aviation history?
- d) How can air travel be improved?
- e) What would life be like without airplanes?
- f) What three adjectives best describe this news?
- g) What renewable energies show the most promise?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the Airbus CEO?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. The airline manufacturer Airbus has unveiled | a. impact |
| 2. could be in | b. from battery power |
| 3. a shift away | c. action |
| 4. hydrogen | d. sector |
| 5. decisive | e. service by 2035 |
| 6. three possible | f. leading role |
| 7. the commercial aviation | g. ambitious plans |
| 8. We intend to play a | h. energy |
| 9. reduce aviation's climate | i. designs |
| 10. renewable | j. propulsion |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Airbus?
- How important is the aircraft manufacturing industry?
- How important are zero-emission airplanes?
- What do you think of air travel?
- What do you know about hydrogen power?
- Why do we travel around the world so much?
- How else can aviation reduce its carbon footprint?
- What advice do you have for Airbus?

Spelling

- The airline ufacnruntare Airbus
- unveiled subomiait plans
- hydrogen-powered eoalcmcmir airplanes
- hydrogen pproionls
- require ivciseed action
- different refuelling nusrecaufitrt
- adopted as a business etrseriepn
- aotvanii sector
- the most important rnonitstai
- a fuel had the leitntapo
- tncliuirsa partners
- for the saleusbiatn future

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. b	4. j	5. d
6. a	7. e	8. g	9. h	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Airplanes

You think airplanes are the easiest things to reduce emissions for. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as easy. Also, tell the others which is the most difficult of these (and why): homes, farming or electricity production.

Role B – Homes

You think homes are the easiest things to reduce emissions for. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as easy. Also, tell the others which is the most difficult of these (and why): airplanes, farming or electricity production.

Role C – Farming

You think farming is the easiest thing to reduce emissions for. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as easy. Also, tell the others which is the most difficult of these (and why): homes, airplanes or electricity production.

Role D – Electricity Production

You think electricity production is the easiest thing to reduce emissions for. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as easy. Also, tell the others which is the most difficult of these (and why): homes, farming or airplanes.

Speaking – Emissions

Rank these with your partner. Put the easiest things to reduce emissions for at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| • Farming | • Airplanes |
| • Electricity production | • Homes |
| • Ships | • Cars |
| • Tourism | • Factories |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.